

U.S. Appln. No. 09/841,956
Amendment Dated Nov. 19, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Sept. 9, 2004
Docket No. 6169-187

IBM Docket No. BOC9-2000-0053

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are submitted responsive to the office action dated September 9, 2004 (Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due.

Before progressing to the rejections in the Office Action, in paragraphs 7-8, the Examiner has indicated that claims 10-14 constituted allowable subject matter.

In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled claims 1-9 and 15-23. It should be noted that the cancellation of the aforementioned claims should be considered as having occurred without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled the claims to expedite the prosecution of allowable subject matter, as indicated by the Examiner. Applicants have also added new claims 24-27, each dependant upon claim 10, to emphasize various inventive aspects of the invention detailed in the specification.

Specifically, claim 24 emphasizes that at least one of the signal processing techniques used by the processor distinguishes a desired portion of the input audio signals from background noise, as specified at page 10, lines 20-21.

Claim 25 emphasizes that at least one of the signal processing techniques used by the processor adjusts audio output signal levels in accordance with said proximity data, wherein when the audio speech source is further away from the audio device than a predetermined distance, audio output signal levels are increased, and wherein when the audio speech source is closer to the audio device than a predetermined distance, audio

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output signal levels are decreased. Support for this claim can be found at page 10, lines 22-25.

Claim 26 emphasizes that each of the signal processing techniques for adjusting input audio signals corresponds to an identified distance range, wherein the processor adjusts audio input signals using at least one signal processing with a corresponding identified distance range that includes a distance that the audio speech source is from the audio device as indicated by the proximity data. Support for this claim can be found at page 11, lines 18-21.

Claim 27 emphasizes that each of the signal processing techniques for adjusting output audio signals corresponds to an identified distance range, wherein the processor adjusts audio output signals using at least one signal processing with a corresponding identified distance range that includes a distance that the audio speech source is from the audio device as indicated by the proximity data. Support for this claim can be found at page 11, lines 18-22.

As each new claim (24-27) is supported by the specification, no new matter has been added. Further, as each new claim (24-27) is dependant upon an allowable independent claim (claim 10), the new claims should be considered allowable subject matter.

Consequently, Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Applicants request that the

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Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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